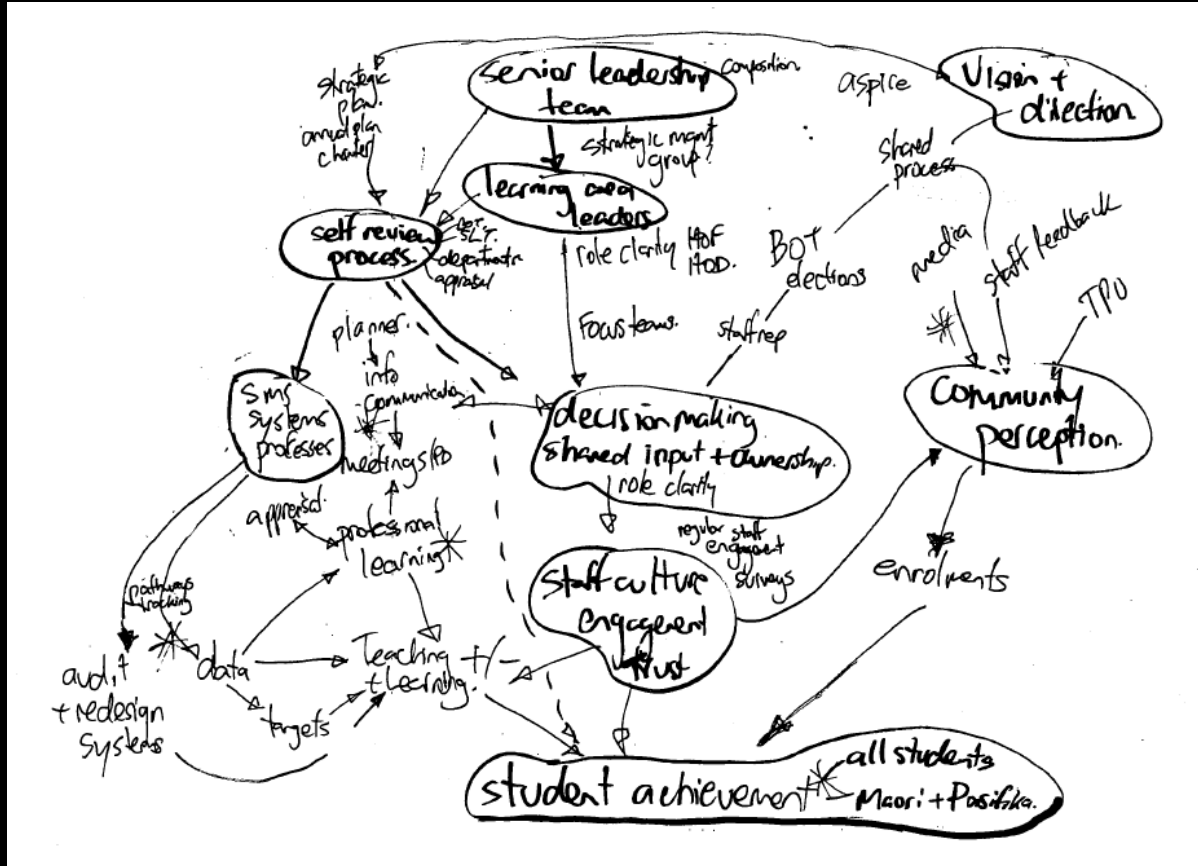
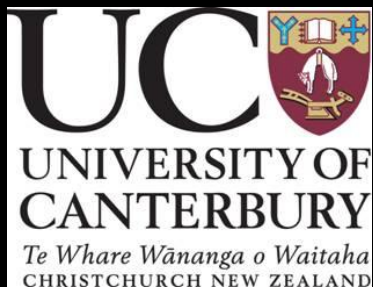


Leveraging system thinking in schools



EARCOS Leadership Conference 2012
Chris Jansen – University of Canterbury, New Zealand



Chris Jansen



linwood college

Providing learning
pathways to the future...



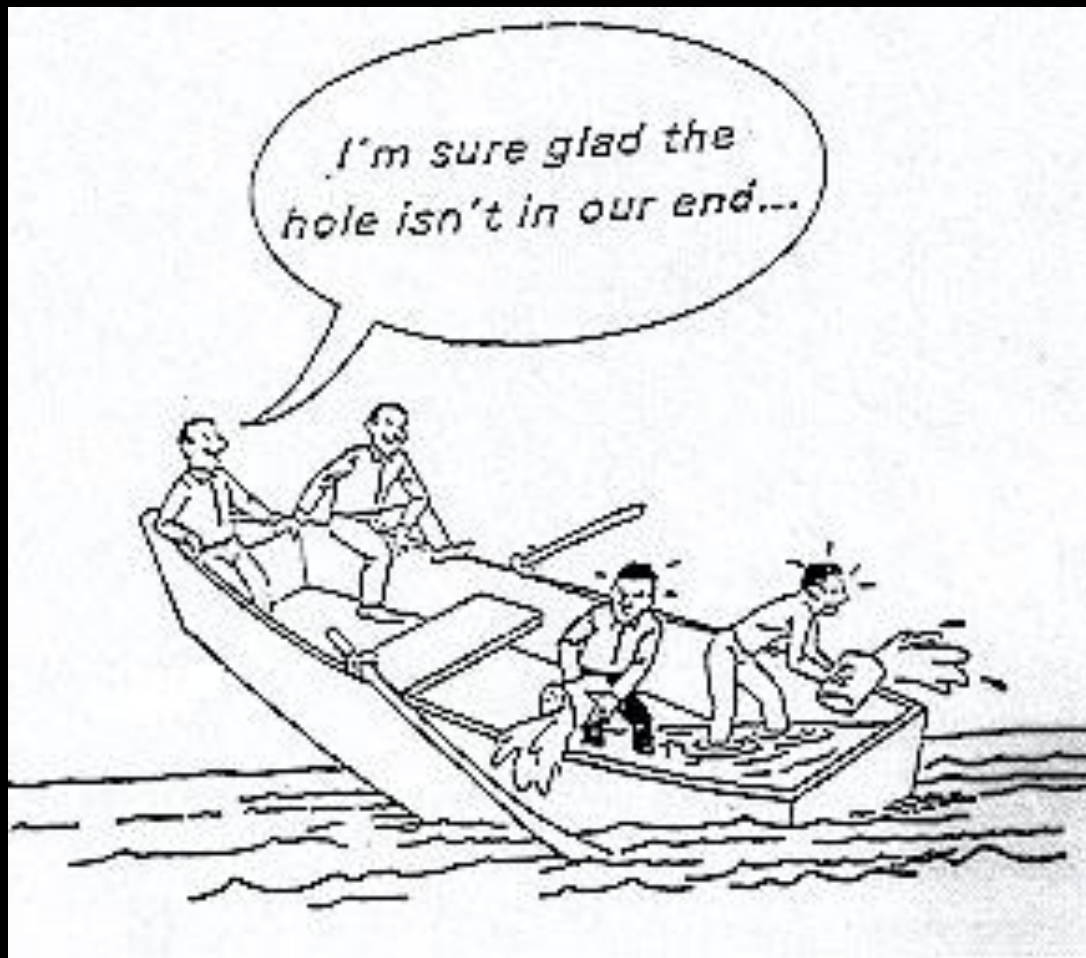


Systems Thinking...

....is a way of making
sense of a complex system

...is the ability to see the world as relationships
and connections

...allows us to influence a complex system



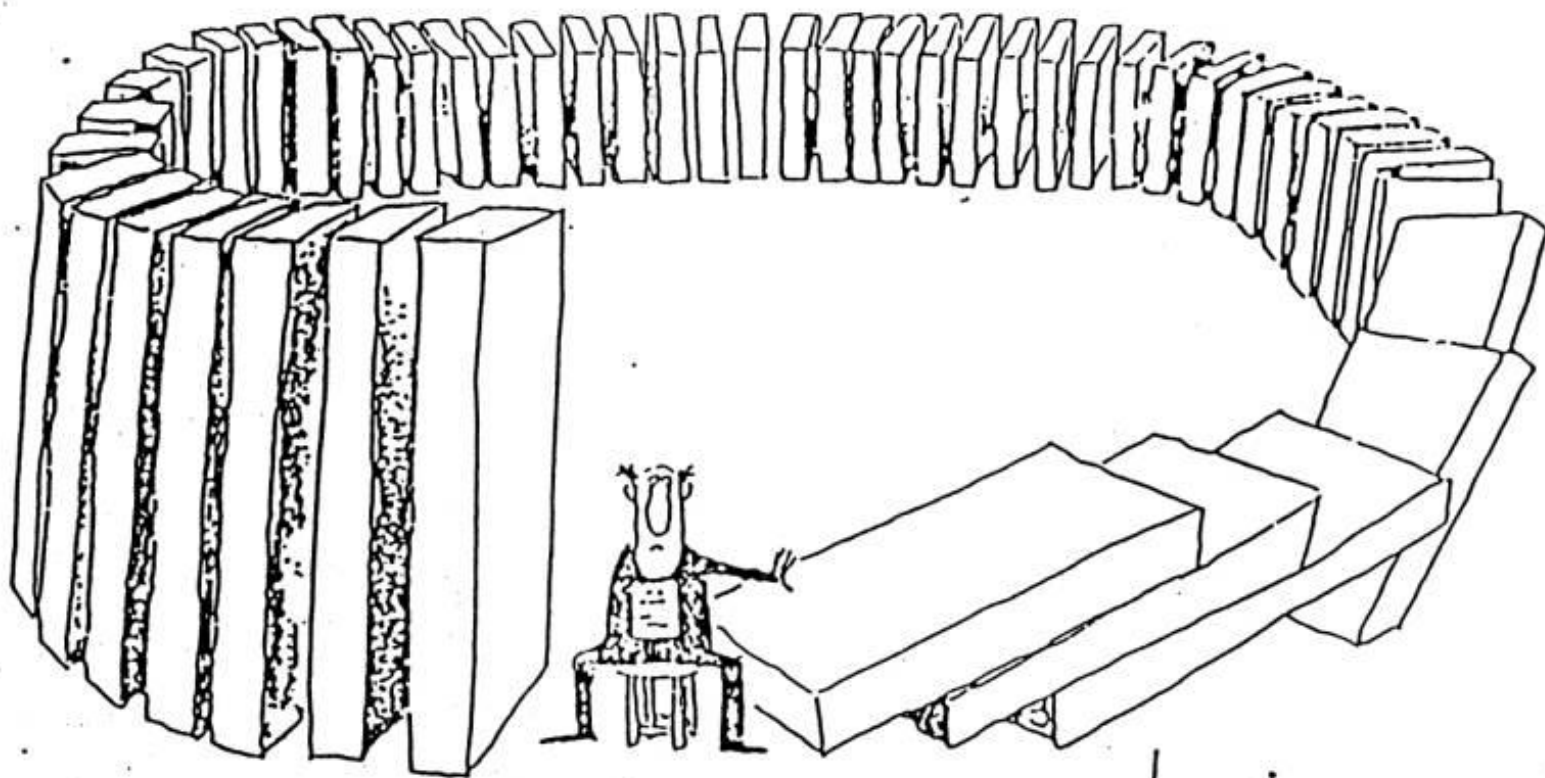
"Where the world is dynamic, evolving and interconnected, we tend to make decisions using mental models that are static, narrow, and reductionist."

Seeing connections instead of parts...

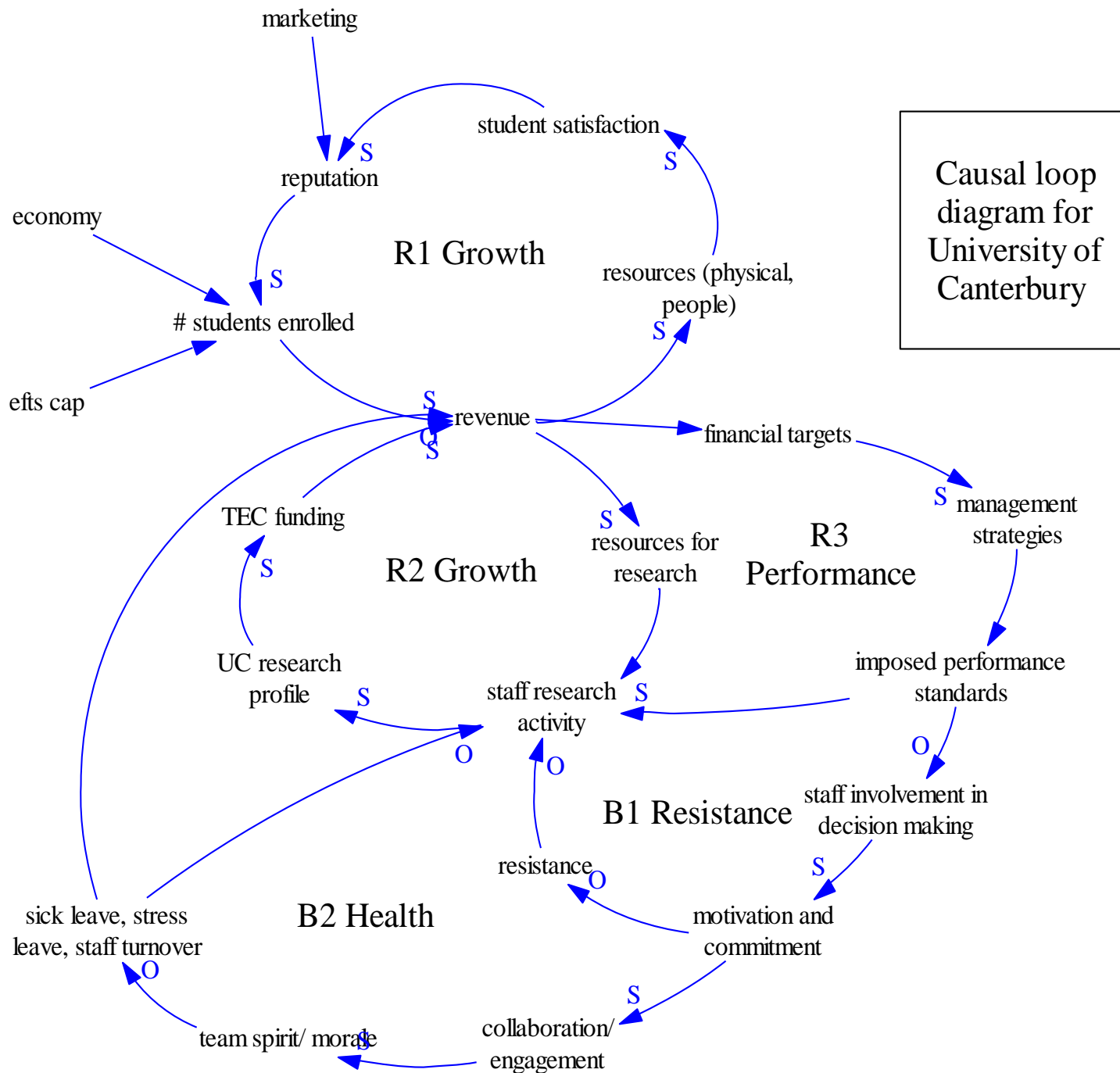
“You can never understand anything
by analysing it.”

“We have to understand the whole before
we can understand the parts - what
matters is their interaction.”

Russell Ackoff



Drawing by Levin; © 1976 The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.



Cynefin Framework

Multiple
connected but
unpredictable
interactions

Decisions are uncertain
and solutions only
apparent in retrospect

Complex	Complicated
Chaotic	Simple

Multiple
predictable
cause and
effect
interactions

Decisions require
expert knowledge

Multiple
disconnected
interactions

Decisions need to be made
quickly to dampen energy

Simple,
predictable
cause and
effect
interactions

Decisions are obvious

Dave Snowden

Technical challenges

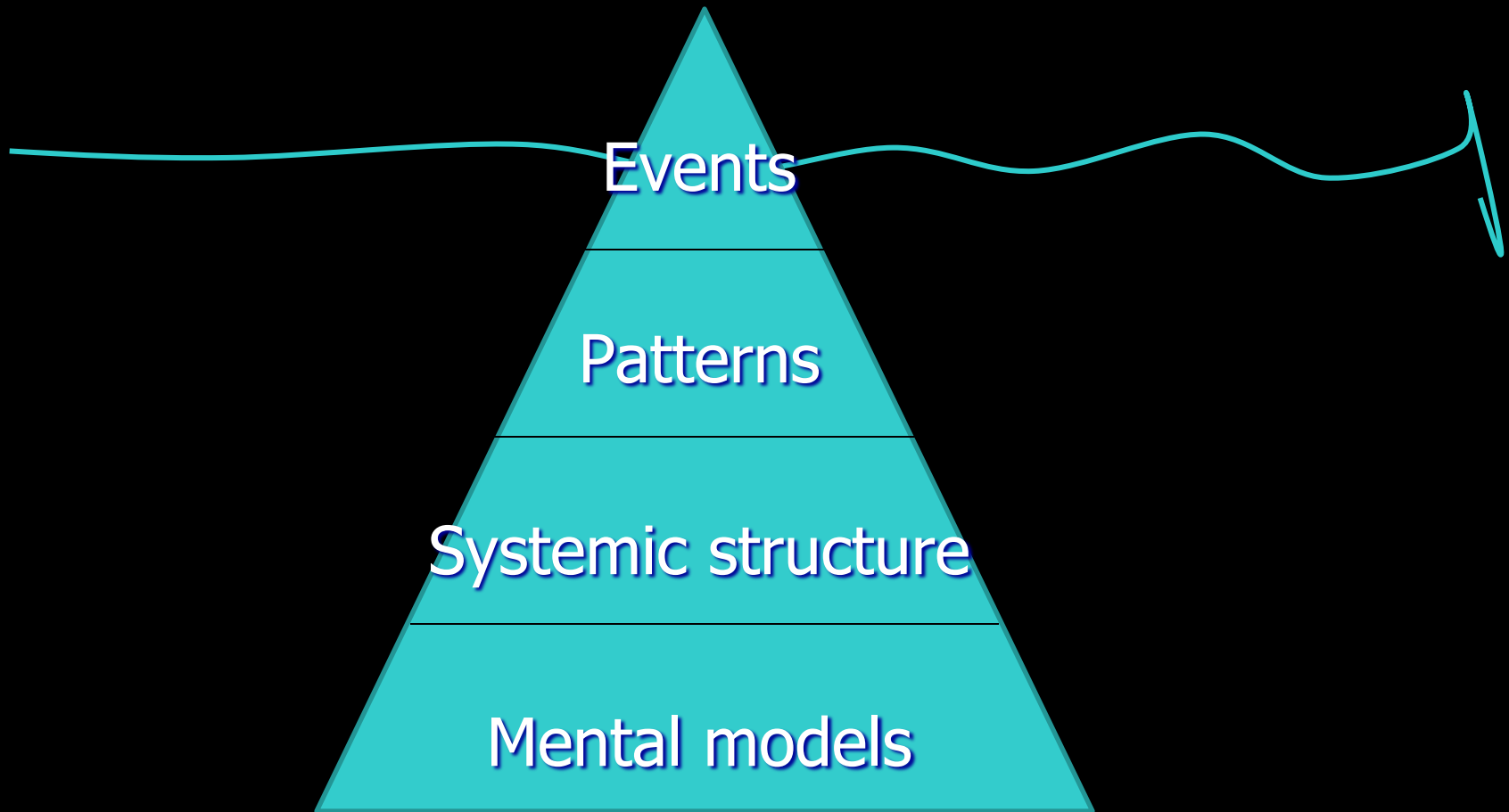
“can be solved with knowledge and procedures already at hand”

Adaptive challenges

“embedded in social complexity, require behaviour change and are rife with unintended consequences”

The Iceberg Model

Four levels of thinking



Maani 2010

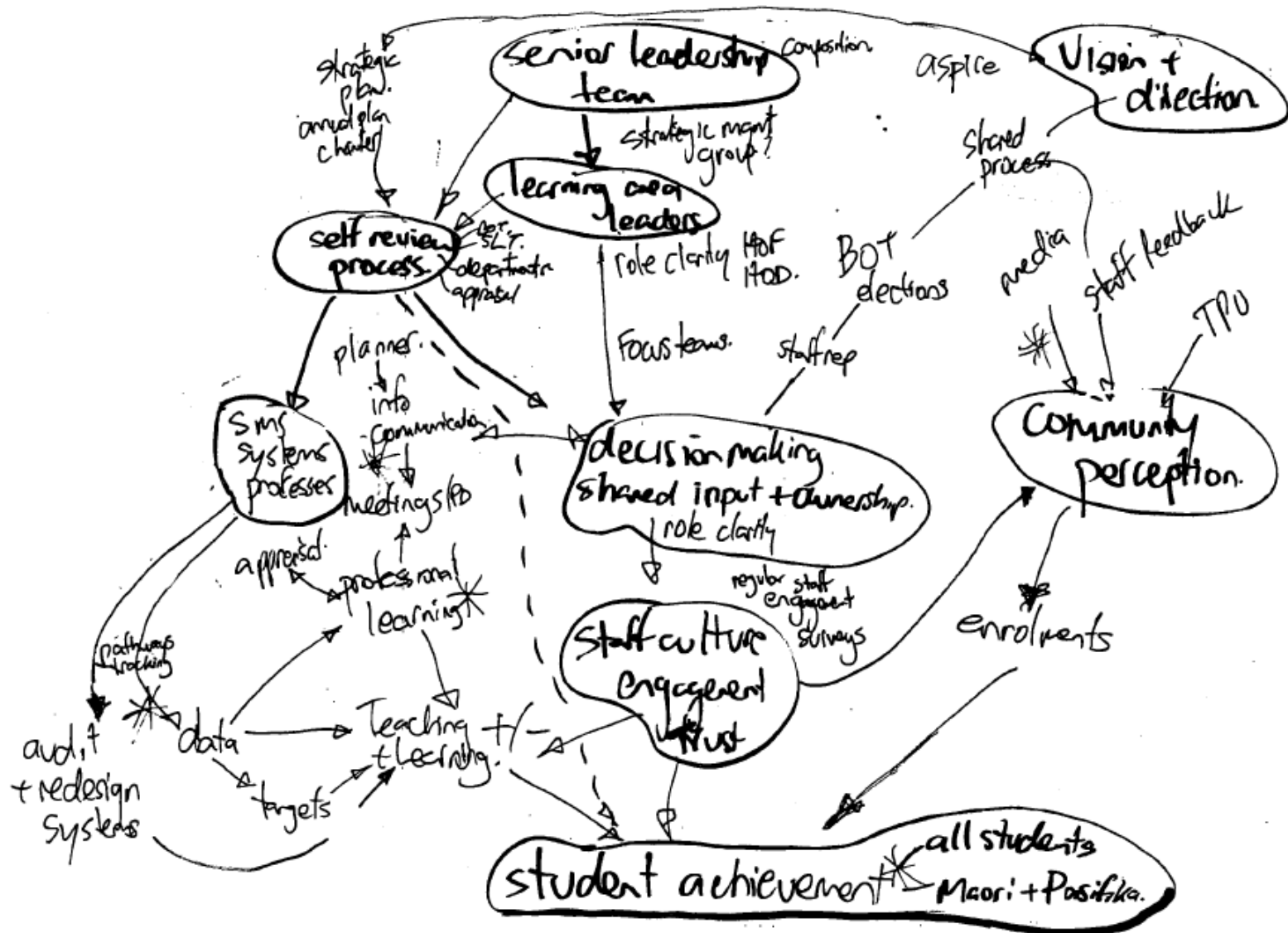
System thinking tools – affinity process

- 1) Clarify the question
- 2) Determine influence factors
- 3) Map connections
- 4) Identify leverage
- 5) Act with clarity

What are the indicators of a successful international school in Asia?

What are the factors that contribute to this?

- What influences that?
 - What influences that?
 - What influences that?



Annual Goals 2012

1. Advancing student **achievement** through effective use of data
2. Continue implementation of school **curriculum** document
3. Consolidating a positive school wide **culture** for learning
4. Enhance presence in and engagement with **community**
5. Sustained improvement in school wide leadership, **systems** and processes

Keeping in contact....

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